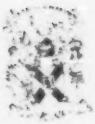

Province of Nova Scotia

Emergency Measures Organization

Annual Report

for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1976

1976?

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TO HIS HONOUR

The Honourable Clarence Lloyd Gosse, M.D., C.M., F.R.C.S.

Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR HONOUR:

I have the honour to submit herewith a Report of the Emergency Measures Organization (Nova Scotia) for the fiscal year ended March 31, 1976.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

Vincent J. MacLean

Minister-in-Charge of Emergency Measures Organization (N.S.)

REPORT

OF

EMERGENCY MEASURES ORGANIZATION

(NOVA SCOTIA)

For the Year Ending March 31, 1976

LEGISLATION

The Emergency Measures Organization (NS) continued to operate under the authority of the EMO Act, Chapter 87 RS of Nova Scotia 1967, and regulations promulgated under authority of that Act.

AIMS

a. Enhance the capability of municipalities to make provision for, and to react to, emergencies within the community, and to provide assistance in emergencies to neighbouring communities.

b. Increase the capability of the government to provide assistance to municipalities in emergencies.

c. Continue to advance the government's approved activities in the field of war emergency measures.

EMO (NS) is a co-ordinating agency of government charged with the duty of insuring that plans and preparations are made at the provincial and municipal level to deal with emergencies and/or war measures affecting the safety of life and property. During the operational phase of an emergency EMO (NS) co-ordinates the efforts of the provincial and federal government departments within the province, and of private health and welfare agencies, to assist municipalities affected by the emergency.

ORGANIZATION

For the purpose of achieving its emergency measures aims, the province is divided into three zones with representatives at zone

headquarters in Kentville, Truro, and Sydney, whose duty is to assist the municipalities in plans and training for emergencies. There is a provincial office in Halifax with a small co-ordinating staff of planners and clerical staff charged with the duty of program planning and development. EMO (NS) has six staff members in zone offices and seven at the provincial headquarters.

OPERATIONS

Volunteer emergency measures activity, particularly at the municipal level, continues to increase. It is estimated over 30,000 volunteer man hours were provided in such activities as ground search and rescue, municipal exercises, emergency planning sessions, auxiliary police and operations.

The severe windstorm which struck the province on Monday, February 2, 1976, caused extensive damage on a scale exceeding recent recollection. Property damage and loss, particularly in the fishing industry, has been estimated to amount to five million dollars. By far the greater portion of damage and loss was sustained in southwestern Nova Scotia. Strong winds did, however, cause damage in other regions as well.

This storm, while severe, was not exceptional in the sense of causing winds of a severity not experienced in almost every place for which records are available. Stronger winds have been recorded in earlier years. What contributed in considerable measure to the damage was the duration of strong winds and gusts. Where these combined with unusually high sea levels and large waves, the damage in coastal regions is understandable.

The salt spray generated by the strong winds and large waves was lifted high above the sea surface and blown inland for some miles. Many instances of power outages were attributed to the failure of salt-coated lines, terminals and transformers. Attempts to keep power transmission facilities washed down were most frustrating due to the continuance of the spray and, of course, the large areas involved.

An interesting sidelight of the storm was the report from long-time residents of the Tiverton-Westport area following the storm that, for the first time in memory, all the sea birds had disappeared from the area and only commenced to return after many weeks.

This storm provided an additional source for comparison and continuing study and research in coping with such events in Nova Scotia.

There was no major flooding during the year, but conditions made the threat possible in some areas. EMO (NS), through its Flood Potential Assessment Committee, was prepared to assist in the issue of public warnings and provide advice where necessary.

In April, the threat of withdrawal of services by the Nova Scotia Ambulance Operators Association required the formulation of an emergency ambulance contingency plan to provide adequate coverage for the province.

EMO (NS) is the co-ordinating agency for requests for assistance to the province from federal departments of government. The Department of National Defence provides air transport assistance to the provincial government where this request does not conflict with services normally available through commercial sources. It also provides emergency air evacuation in cases of a humanitarian nature to save lives and relieve suffering. The average yearly number of cases involving emergency medical air evacuation and search and rescue flights for lost persons amounts to approximately 30.

COMPENSATION FOR FEBRUARY STORM

The Government of Nova Scotia entered into a program to compensate victims of this storm. EMO (NS) was assigned to administer the program. At the time of preparation and publication of this annual report, the program had not been concluded. A full account will be given in the annual report, 1976/77.

TRAINING

Federal Study Centre (Arnprior)

Emergency Planning Canada conducts training courses at the Federal Study Centre, Arnprior, Ontario. Courses are of a general or specific nature. EPC pays all expenses of students attending the Centre. During 1975, students from the Province of Nova Scotia attended EPC courses as follows:

Activity	No. Attending
Agriculture	2
Emergency Health	8
Emergency Social Services	5
Radiological Defence	2
Government Organization	2
Management and Control	35
	54

PROVINCIAL TRAINING

Courses and instructions in emergency measures are conducted at the provincial level at the Regional Emergency Government Headquarters, Camp Debert, at zone headquarters, and in municipalities.

To assist elected municipal officials, employees of municipalities and municipal services, and volunteers to understand the current emergency measures program, the basic indoctrination seminar was further developed to delineate the emergency measures process. The presentation, which was considered most beneficial in providing a better understanding of emergency measures, was given as a prelude to municipal planning and disaster exercises.

Two basic casualty simulation courses and two refresher workshops were conducted in support of the municipal disaster training program.

EMO (NS) personnel attended seminars, gave lectures, talks, and film presentations to numerous groups including students, nurses, service and municipal clubs, church organizations, youth organizations, municipal councils and emergency planning committees. In addition, emergency measures became closer aligned with both amateur radio and general radio service (CB) clubs by participating in provincial and municipal exercises.

GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATION

This activity provides for the continuity of government authority and the organization of essential government functions in an emergency. It requires the development of policies and plans

covering the functioning of provincial departments, commissions, agencies, and municipal governments in all types of emergencies. For war contingency it involves the preparation of plans for relocation of government elements to emergency government headquarters, the establishment of operational procedures, state of readiness and contingency plans.

Emergency government headquarters have been established as follows:

a. Regional Provincial Emergency Government Headquarters (REGHQ) at Camp Debert, Nova Scotia.

b. Regional Relocation Unit (RRU) in support of the REGHQ at the Teachers' College, Truro, Nova Scotia.

c. Western Zone Emergency Government Headquarters (ZEGHQ) at Kentville, Nova Scotia.

d. Central Zone Emergency Government Headquarters (ZEGHQ) at Truro, Nova Scotia.

e. Cape Breton Zone Emergency Government Headquarters (ZEGHQ) at Sydney, Nova Scotia.

f. Municipal Emergency Government Headquarters (MEGHQ) would be established at the municipal level, co-ordinated by the ZEGHQ's.

PUBLIC INFORMATION

During the year, EMO (NS) carried out a number of information activities to inform the public of its program and activities. These included production of the quarterly EMO Bulletin, press releases, and photography.

The wire transmission facilities of the Nova Scotia Communications and Information Centre are used to distribute both public information and emergency announcements to the provincial radio and television stations and daily newspapers.

The public information program will continue to foster greater public understanding of EMO objectives and activities through brochures and booklets, public addresses, and the news media.

DANGEROUS COMMODITIES

The continuing objectives of the dangerous commodities activity are to educate communities as to potential hazards, to develop procedures for municipalities to deal with accidents involving dangerous materials, and to maintain a capability of evaluating the radiological hazards resulting from nuclear war.

EMO (NS) maintains a province-wide reporting network for evaluating the effects of nuclear fallout in war emergency, and maintains the necessary radiation detection equipment for this purpose. It also assists the Department of Public Health and municipal and commercial agencies in assessing radiation hazards resulting from accidents involving the transportation and commercial use of radio isotopes.

EMO (NS) has been co-operating with the Department of Environment, together with the Canadian Environment Protection Service and the petroleum industry in their petroleum spill containment and cleanup programs.

LAW AND ORDER

On June 25, 1974, the Governor in Council approved Regulations under the Emergency Measures Act, authorizing the formation of a Royal Canadian Mounted Police Auxiliary for use when a state of emergency exists.

During the year, 'H' Division RCMP enrolled 62 auxiliary members and established training centres at Halifax, Truro, Sydney, Antigonish, Amherst and Yarmouth.

RESCUE

The EMO (NS) Ground Search and Rescue program has been enthusiastically received throughout the province. Thirteen teams of volunteers have been organized and trained to date.

Many of the teams have become, or are in the process of becoming, incorporated under the Societies Act. The aim is to have one team per county, but where experience, population and geography dictates, additional teams may be formed.

During the year, 26 searches were carried out. Twenty-two persons were rescued alive and four were found dead.

FALLOUT PROTECTION

In continuation of shelter planning, sponsored by the federal government for the protection of the public from radiation hazards resulting from nuclear attack or peacetime nuclear disaster, a consulting engineering firm completed a Nova Scotia Provincial Shelter Plan, using data compiled through the employment of students in the summer of 1973.

EMERGENCY SOCIAL SERVICES

The Department of Social Services maintains a full-time officer as Director of Emergency Social Services. The department's responsibility in this field is to develop and maintain a provincial capability to provide emergency social services essential for survival, i.e., emergency lodging, clothing, feeding, personnel services, and registration and inquiry. In addition to this, plans are maintained to continue essential social services programs in emergencies.

Community emergency social services programs are the responsibility of the government's field units. The front lines of the department's emergency programs are centered upon community emergency welfare centres operated by local representatives from the provincial unit staff, in co-operation with volunteer agencies such as the Red Cross and the local school boards. Most welfare centres are located in community schools.

During past years, continued efforts have been made to train and exercise community welfare centres in conjunction with community disaster exercises.

Evacuation and relocation plans are being developed for homes for special care throughout the province. A number of successful exercises have been conducted by municipal EMO's in which the

residents of homes for special care have been evacuated and taken to a suitable relocation site under simulated emergency conditions.

EMERGENCY HEALTH SERVICES

This division was staffed until January 1976 only by a part-time director and, until his retirement late in 1975, by a part-time medical consultant, Dr. H.B. Colford. In January 1976, Miss Carol Beazley, R.N., B.Sc.N., was appointed full-time as a Nursing and Planning Officer, Emergency Health Services.

The Director attended the EMO (NS) Director's Conference, provided advice to EMO (NS) on health matters as required, was a member of the Health Services and Insurance Commission Committee to study Ambulance Services in Nova Scotia, continued liaison with the Halifax International Airport concerning the Airport Disaster Plan and continued to liaise with Regional Medical Services and attended the Federal/Provincial Emergency Health Conference at Arnprior.

Miss Beazley, during the period from January 2, 1976 to March 31, 1976 was primarily involved in an orientation program which included sessions with EMO (NS), the Regional Director, Emergency Planning Canada, divisions of the Department of Public Health, and attendance at the DREP 2 course at the Federal Study Centre, Arnprior, Ontario. A program to resume field work was begun relative to Hospital Disaster Planning, Nursing School and In-service Education and liaison with the Registered Nurses Association, the Canadian Red Cross and Saint John Ambulance.

The next fiscal year should reflect the active up-dating of Emergency Health Programs.